

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 H-02 ISO-00 DHA-02 /015 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA-ABREAZEAL:BJF
APPROVED BY ARA- MR. RYAN
ARA/ECA-MR. ZIMMERMANN
H-ASWIFT (INFO)

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R 070542Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, PA, UY

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN
. PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY

1. ON AUGUST 4, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RYAN TESTIFIED BEFORE THE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS IN PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MS. BRAZEAL, DESK OFFICER, MR. KOCKLER, A.I.D. OFFICER, LT. COL. QUIGG, POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS, AND MR. PALMER, D/HA. MR. RYAN'S STATEMENT HAS BEEN SENT SEPTTEL. COPIES OF THE DEPARTMENT'S REPLIES TO THE SUB-COMMITTEE'S QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN POUCHED.

2. CONGRESSMEN FRASER, KOCH AND HARRINGTON WERE PRESENT. FRASER AND KOCH ASKED QUESTIONS. HARRINGTON SUBMITTED A LIST OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING URUGUAY TO WHICH THE DEPARTMENT WILL SEND WRITTEN REPLIES. EMBASSY MONTEVIDEO WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT BEFORE DEPARTMENT'S REPLIES ARE SENT TO HARRINGTON.

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3. HEARING WAS WELL ATTENDED BUT NOT CROWDED. MOST

HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS WERE REPRESENTED INCLUDING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND W.O.L.A. WILSON FERREIRA AND HIS SON WERE ALSO PRESENT. BOTH EMBASSIES SENT REPRESENTATIVES.

4. WASHINGTON POST AUGUST 5 CARRIED REPORT OF HEARING WHICH WAS SENT EMBASSIES VIA USIA WIRELESS FILE AUGUST 5. COPY BEING POUCHED.

5. CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONS FOCUSSED PRIMARILY ON URUGUAY AND HOW THE DEPARTMENT APPLIES SECTION 502 B OF THE FAA AS AMENDED. ALSO AMPLY COVERED WAS QUESTION OF CREDIBILITY OF DEPARTMENT'S VIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN URUGUAY; WHETHER MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS FORM OF INTERVENTION; THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING A SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TEAM ON HUMAN RIGHTS; MILITARY TRAINING; EMBASSY EFFORTS TO VERIFY TORTURE; US NATIONAL INTERESTS SERVED BY ASSISTANCE TO MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT; THE RESULTS OF "QUIET DIPLOMACY".

6. RYAN DEFENDED PERFORMANCE OF EMBASSY MONTEVIDEO AND MADE POINT THAT DEPARTMENT HAS NOT YET DEFINED SECTION 502 (B) AS IT WOULD APPLY TO COUNTRY'S HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE GIVEN DIFFICULTY OF DETERMINING MEANING OF "GROSS", "CONSISTENT", AND "PATTERN". TRANSCRIPTS WILL BE POUCHED WHEN AVAILABLE.

7. HEARINGS HAD NO DISCERNABLE EFFECT ON RESPECTIVE POSITION OF PARTICIPANTS. HABIB

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